

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant has carefully reviewed and considered the Office Action mailed on November 17, 2004, and the references cited therewith.

No claims are amended, no claims are canceled, and no claims are added; as a result, claims 1-8 are now pending in this application.

§102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Muramatsu (U.S. Patent No. 5,452,108).

Independent claims 1, 3, 5, and 8.

In the office action, the Examiner cited Col. 1, lines 45-50 and Col. 2, lines 62-64 as describing the indexing of a plurality of cross linear samplings in a forward sequential order, and the indexing of a plurality of cross linear samplings in a reverse sequential order.

The Muramatsu reference appears to teach scanning a number of originals in normal and reverse scanning directions. (Col. 1, lines 42-58). The Muramatsu reference also appears to teach the normal and reverse reading of the scanned data. When one of the above methods are used, image data is stored in memory. When information scanned in reverse is read, it can be read either in reverse or rotated and read normally. When the data is rotated, the Muramatsu reference states that "the image data is read out from image memory 304 after 180 degree rotation in rotation processing portion 307 at the time of reading." (See Col. 9, lines 57-60).

In contrast, Applicant's independent claim 1, 3, 5, and 8 recite, besides other things:

indexing a plurality of cross linear samplings in a forward sequential order;
indexing a plurality of cross linear samplings in a reverse sequential order.

The Muramatsu reference does not describe, indexing a plurality of cross linear samplings in a forward sequential order, and indexing a plurality of cross linear samplings in a reverse sequential order. Rather, the Muramatsu reference appears to teach reverse reading or rotating the image data as it is read.

As discussed above, each cross linear sampling in a forward direction and a reverse direction is indexed. And, the Applicant was unable to locate a teaching of indexing image data, anywhere in the Muramatsu reference.

As such, each and every element of Applicant's independent claim 1 is not described in the Muramatsu reference. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the §102 rejection for independent claims 1, 3, 5, and 8, as well as those claims which depend therefrom.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (360) 212-8052 to facilitate prosecution of this matter.

At any time during the pendency of this application, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to the Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR §1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS AMENDMENT Commissioner for Patents, P.O. BOX 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 25th day of January, 2005.

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